

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-13, and 15-21 have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, and 19-21 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Takenaka et al.

The present invention is intended to prevent the reproduction of a hard disk when the hard disk is moved to another apparatus, thereby protecting copyrighted data stored in the hard disk.

Features of the recording/reproducing apparatus according to the present invention are a first storage means (Hard Disk) and a separate second storage means (ROM) for pre-storing a formula that is unique to the recording/reproducing apparatus.

Further features of the recording/reproducing apparatus according to the present invention are the generation of a predetermined value and the transformation of the predetermined value based on the formula. The transformed predetermined value is stored in the first storage means (Hard Disk).

An advantage of the above-noted features of the present invention is that by keeping the transformed predetermined value in a different storage means than the formula unique to the apparatus, a stronger copyright protection than in previously proposed systems is achieved.

Independent Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite

the above-noted features of the present invention.

An advantage of the presently claimed invention is that the data stored in the first storage means (Hard Disk) cannot be reproduced when the first storage means is moved to another apparatus, because the other apparatus has another pre-stored unique formula.

Looking at Takenaka et al. we see that the data stored in the HDD can be reproduced when the HDD is removed from the original apparatus and attached to another apparatus. This reproduction is possible because the secret key in Takenaka et al. is produced based on machine specific information generated during the installation process and, the machine specific information and the secret key are stored in the same HDD.

Further, when the entire copyrighted data stored in the HDD of Takenaka et al. is copied to a blank HDD having the same specifications, the copied data can be reproduced resulting in a copyright violation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 21, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Takenaka et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 6, 9, and 10 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Takenaka et al. in view of Koyata et al.

Claims 6, 9, and 10 depend from claim 1, which rejection under Takenaka et al. has been addressed above and, because

there are no features in Koyata et al. that somehow could be combined with Takenaka et al. and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6, 9, and 10 are patentably distinct over Takenaka et al. in view of Koyata et al.

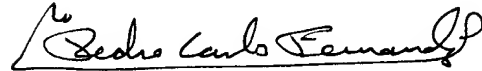
Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 14 and 16-18 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Takenaka et al. in view of Abe et al.

Claims 14 and 16-18 depend from claim 1, which rejection under Takenaka et al. has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Abe et al. that somehow could be combined with Takenaka et al. and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 16-18 are patentably distinct over Takenaka et al. in view of Abe et al.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because all of the features of this invention have clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pedro C. Fernandez".

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